



CALPEEK

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NEW L.A. TIMES POLL PUTS GOV. WILSON IN LEAD.

Editor's note: A new L.A. Times survey taken Sept. 8-11 among 1,165 voters (of which 721 are considered *likely voters*) shows Gov. Pete Wilson(R) leading State Treasurer Kathleen Brown(D) by a 50% to 41% margin among *likely voters*, with 8% undecided and 1% for someone else. Among all registered voters, the gap is just 2 pts., 46% to 44%. Here is CALPEEK's analysis of this latest poll...

...It's not the end of the world for Brown, but her big 22-pt. lead over Wilson has vanished and the new data suggests she's got some major weaknesses which have to be corrected in the next 7 weeks or the *fat lady will have sung*. The most *damaging* stat in the new survey shows that 31% of Demo men support Wilson, while only 15% of GOP women support Brown. Not good news, but leave it to the eternal CA Demo Party optimist Bob Mulholland to compare Brown's current predicament to Christine Whitman in New Jersey, 8 weeks before the November 1993 election, when she trailed Gov. Jim Florio(D) in the polls. As Mulholland noted, voters threw Florio out and elected Whitman...

...The New Jersey comparison, which has been discussed among insiders, has validity and Wilson's campaign team has to be concerned with the fact that 63% of those polled say Calif. is headed in the wrong direction. And Wilson's job performance numbers are only slightly better than in May --- 44% today vs. 39%. And although not part of the survey, there is some concern that Wilson's conservative GOP base may not be as solid as some think...

...What does all this mean??? Political spins are all over the place --- as you might expect. There are those who believe CA's fragile economy is slowly mending and that's good news for all incumbents, regardless of party. So this is a plus for Wilson. Other sources suggest that

voters would like to "fire" Wilson, but are in a *wait-and-see mode* because Brown has not clearly defined her vision for Calif. Still others see this latest poll as evidence that Brown never really had the broad-based support within the Demo Party to defeat Wilson in the general. About the only thing our sources agree on is this: if Wilson wins, it won't be because CA voters were enthusiastic about him, but because Brown's team failed to make a case for her candidacy...

...FYI: Brown's latest TV spot about freezing **college tuition fees** is very interesting when you look at numbers: 9 UC campuses and 20 CSU campuses have a combined student population of 538,000. When you add 1.4 million community college students, that comes to almost 2 million. Throw in the *multiplier effect* for parents and we're talking 3.5 million potential voters. The parents, many of whom are GOPers, are angry with Wilson for raising fees. Some think Wilson may have misjudged this issue because higher education is very important to Republicans. In other words, Wilson may have alienated part of his GOP base. Stay tuned...

CALIF.'S CENTRAL COAST UP FOR GRABS IN '94.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK looks at House & Legislative races along Calif.'s Central Coast, from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo. Here's our report & analysis...

● **18th S.D.** - Most insiders agree that the key battle in this region is for this district now held by Demo Gary Hart, who is retiring. The favorite is popular Demo Assemblyman Jack O'Connell of Santa Barbara, who faces former San Luis Obispo Co. Sup. Steve MacElvaine. MacElvaine's bid for a free ride in the GOP primary didn't pay off and he was forced to battle conservative Steve Decker. MacElvaine won 60% to 40%,

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but it wiped out his war chest and money has been hard to come by. Enter Senate GOP Leader Ken Maddy, who has given MacElvaine \$100,000. That money has been spent on an early TV/radio buy. Sources say Maddy will poll soon to see if MacElvaine has a shot. If he does, more money will flow...

...Knowing that he faced a tough fight, very early on O'Connell pumped about \$50,000 into a massive voter registration drive. The district has a 44.7% Demo vs. 40.12% GOP registration, but Demos usually need more to win. Many sources, GOP & Demo, agree that the drive is *starting to pay off*. In terms of raw numbers, O'Connell's team claims to have registered about 40,000 new Demos. The O'Connell strategy is to win on the ground, with solid field and GOTV work. FYI: O'Connell has matched MacElvaine with an early TV/radio buy of his own. Edge to O'Connell...

● **22nd C.D.** - One of those who may get some benefit from O'Connell's registration drive is UCSB Prof. Walter Capps, the upset winner over Marty Stone in the Demo primary. In the battle to replace Michael Huffington, Capps won on a shoestring budget, but now has funding and strong team of consultants led by Bill Carrick(tv), Garin-Hart (polling) and Terris & Jaye (direct mail). In GOP Assemblywoman Andrea Seastrand, Capps faces a formidable challenger who has more than 75% name ID in the district. Like Capps, she was in a tough primary with retiring Santa Barbara Co. Sup. Mike Stoker. While she got nearly 60% of the GOP vote, the primary was marked by bitterness and name calling, so there is some question as to whether Seastrand's GOP base is united. In terms of issues, Capps doesn't fit any ideological mold, although sources describe him as a *progressive*. Seastrand's election is a top priority for the *religious right*. CALPEEK rates the 22nd C.D. as a *toss up* for now...

● **33rd A.D.** - This is the OPEN assembly district in SLO County now represented by Seastrand. Urban planner John Ashbaugh takes his second shot at the 33rd A.D. and now faces rancher Tom Bordonaro Jr., who defeated moderate GOP candidate Joni Gray in the primary. There are some who think Bordonaro is not a very good candidate and Ashbaugh hopes for a heavy cross-over vote from moderate GOPers. O'Connell's registration drive has narrowed the gap (it's now about 42.57% Demo vs. 43.51% GOP), but even Speaker

Willie Brown can't be everywhere, thus Ashbaugh will be on his own. Bordonaro will have sufficient funding from Assembly Republicans and from Allied Business PAC. The seat leans Republican...

● **35th A.D.** - This is the OPEN assembly district in Santa Barbara Co. now represented by O'Connell. Some 12 years ago O'Connell first won this seat by defeating GOP businessman Brooks Firestone. Firestone wants another shot and he's the GOP nominee. The Demo establishment backed Gary Hart's AA, Bob Ream, but educator Mindy Lorenz out hustled Ream and won the primary by 16-pts. She spent more than \$150,000. She has a debt left, but claims to be raising money. Firestone has about \$125,000 in cash right now and will outspend Lorenz. He's a moderate, so on some issues these two aren't that far apart. But Lorenz used to be on the Peace & Freedom Cnt. Cmt. and was a Green Party member before signing up as a Demo. Firestone's campaign says Lorenz is way *too liberal* for the district. Lorenz counters by saying that Firestone is a "Huffington clone." While the Demo registration drive may help, CALPEEK rates Firestone as a slight favorite for now. Stay tuned...

29th S.D. SPECIAL: MOUNTJOY GET MOST VOTES BUT WILL HAVE TO BATTLE HESTER IN RUNOFF.

Conservative Assemblyman Richard Mountjoy of Arcadia easily outdistanced his two strongest GOP rivals, but didn't win a majority, so he will face Demo Sandy Hester in a Nov. 8th runoff. Ironically, the special election took place one day after former State Sen. Frank Hill(R) was sentenced to 46 months in the Federal slammer for his political corruption conviction. Until July, Hill represented the 29th S.D...

...Mountjoy got 44.7% of the vote, followed by Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller(R) with 20.4% and GOP Assemblyman Paul Horcher with 18.0%. Hester got 13.6%. The 16% turnout was slightly higher than anticipated. A nice win for Mountjoy consultant Bob Gouty and the IE groups...

...The results have to be a big disappointment to Miller who spent tons of his own money --- much of it on a VBM (vote by mail) program. Mountjoy didn't have Miller's resources, but it appears that many of those who got Miller's VBM materials voted for Mountjoy. In the absentees, Mountjoy got about 46%, Miller 24 and Horcher 13%...

...Late independent expenditure(IE) spending on behalf of Horcher (perhaps more than \$120,000 to flood the district with 5-6 mailers) made the race kind of exciting. CTA, CMA, SEIU and the CA Trial Lawyers funded the last minute Horcher IE blitz. But most insiders didn't give Horcher much of a shot...

...FYI: with Mountjoy now in two Nov. 8th races, sources think Assembly Demos may take a second look at Mountjoy's 59th A.D. The Demo is family attorney Margalo Ashley-Farrand. The pitch would be that Mountjoy is leaving the assembly for the senate --- so why not elect Ashley-Farrand and save the money that a special election would cost. It's a problem for GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte. Stay tuned...

CA BIA TO HOLD '95 REAL ESTATE FORECAST CONF.

The CA Building Industry Assn.(CBIA) will hold its 1995 Real Estate Forecast Conference on Sept. 28th at the St. Francis Hotel, S.F. This event is co-sponsored by the UC Berkeley Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics. Keynote speaker is Ross Perot Jr., son of you-know-who. The 35-year-old Perot is one of No. 1 Texas' biggest real estate developers/owners. For info 1-800-464-5436...

BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE: NEW POLLING DATA.

Editor's note: The L.A. Times has released new polling data for four(4) of the most controversial initiatives on the Nov. 8th ballot. Here's our brief report, with an emphasis on Prop. 187 --- SOS...

...The polling covers the same Sept. 8-11 time frame as the gubernatorial poll, with the same group of interviewees. Here are the results when a *description of each initiative* is given during the phone survey:

- **184 (3 Strikes)** - YES 59%, NO 29% and don't know 12%...
- **186 (Single Payer)** - YES 23%, NO 63% and don't know 14%.
- **188 (Smoking)** - YES 47%, NO 45% and don't know 8%...

...As for **Prop. 187**, the data shows little if any decrease in support, despite what's turning out to be an aggressive free media campaign against the illegal alien/SOS campaign. YES still leads with 62%. 29% are opposed

and 9% are listed as don't know. And as the L.A. Times reports, even Hispanics favor the initiative by a 52% to 42% margin...

...In recent days, the NO on 187 campaign has tried to link the YES side's co-author, former INS Comm. Alan Nelson, to an alleged *white supremacist* group known as the Pioneer Fund. Pioneer Fund has given lots of money to a group called FAIR - Federation for American Immigration Reform --- and Nelson was FAIR's Sacto lobbyist. It's a stretch, but the object is to persuade minority voters that 187 isn't something they should support. Stay tuned...

STATEWIDE DOWN-BALLOT RACES: 7 WEEKS LEFT.

Editor's note: Here are some brief stories about some of the down-ballot races...

● **To Debate --- or Not to Debate** - Gov. Pete Wilson & Treasurer Kathleen Brown should take lessons from State Treasurer candidates Matt Fong(R) and Phil Angelides(D) and AG candidates Dan Lungren(R) and Tom Umberg(D). Fong/Angelides have already had one debate and have scheduled 3 more. Lungren/Umberg have agreed to 8-10 debates/appearances. As far as we can tell, Brown & Wilson have tentatively agreed to only 1 debate: Oct. 16th in S.F. No word about debates from the Controller, SOS, IC or LG candidates. And don't bet anything that U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) and U.S. Rep. Michael Huffington(R) will appear together on the same stage...

● **Controller** - Republican Tom McClintock is on the *warp* path, sending out old news clips from the L.A. Times to editorial page editors and political reporters around the State. The old stories concern Kathleen Connell's stewardship of the L.A. City Housing Dept. under former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley. The stories do not paint a flattering picture of Connell's administrative abilities. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what McClintock is up to. Will it work? It didn't work in the primary when Connell's two Demo challengers pleaded with reporters to write stories about her years at L.A. City Hall...

● **Treasurer** - While the Matt & Phil debate show goes forward, behind the scenes these two are getting ready for a real battle. Angelides has requested and received some 3,900 pages of Matt Fong's *traveling*

expenses while serving on the BoE. Fong says Angelides is getting ready to smear him. Fong is particularly worried about Angelides political operative Bob Mulholland. Fong says Mulholland wanted to get a list of videos he(Fong) may have rented. In an L.A. Times story, Mulholland said, "We want to find out if Matt Fong, while on the road, is renting 'Bambi' videos or 'Debbie Does Dallas.'" It was said, according to Mulholland, with tongue planted firmly against cheek. But Fong's campaign took the quote seriously. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **Domestic Partnership Veto** - Gov. Pete Wilson's veto of AB 2810(Katz), which was very high on the political agenda of CA's politically active gay & lesbian community, is having the kind of political fallout you'd expect. *Hardline conservatives* are pleased, while *gays* (and *senior citizens*) are furious. How furious? The CA Log Cabin Club, a gay GOP group, will *not endorse* Wilson for reelection. Rich Colbert, head of the L.A. chpt. of the Log Cabin Club, claimed in a recent L.A. Times Magazine article that in 1990 among gay voters, there was a 50-50 split for Wilson and Feinstein. Will gays vote for Wilson in 1994??? Doubtful, because Wilson's latest veto opens up old wounds from 1991 when he vetoed AB 101 - the Gay Bill of Rights...

- **25 Most Vulnerable** - Two Calif. congressmen make Roll Call Newspaper's list of the *25 most vulnerable* House members. In the #1 spot is freshman Ken Calvert(R-Riverside) and in the #12 spot is veteran Demo Richard Lehman of Fresno. Of the 25 most vulnerable, 16 are Demos and 9 are GOPers...

- **Friedman Wins Court Battle** - As of right now, Assemblyman Terry Friedman(D-L.A.) will get to keep his ballot title of "Law Professor/Lawmaker." Friedman is running for an L.A. Co. Superior Court judgeship against trial attorney John Moriarity, who went to court to challenge Friedman's new battle title...

- **Why Hardliners Hate Pete** - Hardline conservatives are like elephants -- they never forget, especially when it comes to warfare with CA Gov. Pete Wilson. Thanks to a recent fax, CALPEEK now has 60 reasons

"Why Conservatives Should & Will Vote for Anyone But Pete Wilson." The top five: 5) the contested legislative primaries of '92; 4) Wilson claims the right wing is *irrelevant*; 3) he appointed John Seymour to the U.S. Senate; 2) he raised gas, corporate & personal taxes; and 1) 40% of us (hardliners) voted for The Rocket Scientist (Ron Unz) in the primary. FYI: A few of the other reasons get honorable mention: "Even Willie Brown wants Pete to win" and "Kathleen Brown doesn't hate conservatives as much as Wilson does."...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Mike Monasmith has been named press secretary for the CA Demo Party(CDP). He was the cmp. mgr. for 41st A.D. Demo candidate Sheila James Kuehl...

- The CA League of Conservation Voters(CLCV) has hired consultant Luke Breit to direct its 1994 Legislative & House campaign activities...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

- **ATTORNEY II to IV**, Legislative Office (Level and salary depending on qualifications; salary info supplied on request). The Calif. Judicial Council, Admin. Office of the Courts, has an attorney opening in the Legislative Office in Sacramento. Duties include reviewing and analyzing committee bills and legislation; preparing position letters and testimony; attending and presenting testimony at hearings; abstracting key info from bills; drafting legislation or bill amendments; building support for and seeking acceptance of Judicial Council positions; and responding to requests for info relating to legislation. Minimum Qualifications: All levels require active membership in the Calif. bar and extensive knowledge of the rules, organization, and operation of the Legislature and court system. Minimum, relevant bar experience of: 3 years for the II level, 4 years for the III level, and 6 years for the IV level is required. Send resume to: Judicial Council Legislative Office, 801 "K" St., Ste. 1800, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916)445-7524. **Filing Deadline:** Oct. 3, 1994. An Equal Opportunity Employer...

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